The projects in this category include computerisation in the Income Tax Department, Customs, Sales Tax, Police Department, Bureau of Indian Standards, Ports/Airports, Railways, Banking and Financial Services.

(ii) National Informatics Centre (NIC) has set up a facility providing for computerisation and networking through-out the country with NICNET for use by the Government agencies.

(iii) The widely used applications such as electronic mail, bulletin boards and Internet applications such as World Wide Web (WWW) are being supported on Education & Research Network (ERNET), a network set up by the DoE.

(iv) Public Wide Area Networks (WAN) like I-Net, RABMN have been implemented by the Department of Telecommunications. VSAT based networks have also been set up for WAN based domestic applications in the country, and international network connectivity and commercial internet services are also provided.

(v) The DoE has also set up institutions for undertaking research and development in computer technology, applications and training in the area of computers. Some of these are; Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Electronics Research & Development Centres (ER&DCs), Centre for Electronics Design & Technology (CEDT) and National Centre for Software Technology (NCST).

(vi) The Government has undertaken a programme of Technology Development of Indian Languages (TDIL) with the objective of development of information processing tools in Indian languages to enable use of computers in these languages.

(vii) It has been proposed to increase computer penetration in the country to ten per thousand people by the year 2000/2001. Appropriate steps have been initiated in this regard.

(c) The Government have initiated a number of projects under a programme of Technology Development of Indian languages, with the objective of development of Information Processing tools and promoting their applications in Indian languages. Thrust areas include development of Corpora, Machine Assisted Translation Systems, Human-Machine Interface Systems, Computer Assisted Learning & Teaching Packages, and Fundamentals of Natural Language Processing.

Under the above programme, Corpora of text in Telugu Language has been developed Machine Assisted Translation System from Telegu to Hindi is being developed jointly by Central University of Hyderabad and IIT Kanpur.

Clearance to Kerala Project

5230. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to the Ministry of Planning and programme Implementation for the clearance of various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) No Project received from Government of Kerala is pending approval in the Planning Commission.

Problems faced by Coastal People

5231. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of pathetic conditions of people residing near the sea areas in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh in general and during cyclones occuring in the months of October and November every year in particular;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that the people residing in low level areas are shifted to major towns rescue measure every year in the month of November;

(c) if so, whether any study has been conducted to provide better facilities permanently instead of paying ex-gratia amount of the victims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that they are fully aware of the living conditions of the people living near sea shore and low lying areas of Nellore District.

In order to improve the living conditions of these people, 728 pucca houses were constructed by Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation, Nellore under the Fishermen's Housing Programme.

(c) and (d) The District Administration conducted a study to assess the needs of the affected people living near shore and a particular type of house design has been planned. Cyclone shelters have been constructed

near shore areas to protect the people during cyclones. So far 119 cyclone shelters have been constructed in coastal villages of the Nellore district and 17 more cyclone shelters are proposed to be constructed in these areas. Based on the disaster warnings all precautionary measures are taken to mitigate the hardship caused by cyclonic disaster. Further, the State Government have taken efforts to provide house sites in the elevated places by acquisition of land, for rehabilitation of people living in low lying areas. Also the Non-Governmental Organisation are bearing 50% of the expenditure with the State Government towards constructions under Fishermen's Housing Scheme.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Power Sector

5232. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide a loan of fifteen lakh American dollars to the Government for making the Power Industry in Bihar self dependent;

(b) if so, the details of the Projects to be started with the World Bank loan;

(c) the time by which the work on the said Projects is likely to be started;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate power generation, transmission and distribution work to different companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government propose to dissolve the Bihar State Electricity Board after the implementation of the said Projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The World Bank has made available a project preparatory Facility (PPF) of US 1.5 million dollars to Bihar to undertake diagnostic studies for reform/restructuring the State Power Sector.

(c) to (d) The Government of Bihar have appointed consultants to conduct a study in two phases on restructuring of the power sector in the State.

(e) and (f) Government of Bihar has set up a Steering Committee under its Chief Secretary to take a view on the recommendations received by it of the first phase of the study which has been completed.

[English]

Central Electricity Authority

5233. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the functioning of the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, whether the Committee on Tariff Regulation also propose to give its recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the extent to which the CEA would be made more functional ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Steps to streamline the functioning of the Central Electricity Authority have been intiated by the Ministry of Power.

(b) The Government have set up an inter-ministerial committee to study alternative tariff structures and suggest changes that may be necessary, with the ultimate objective of enabling availability of least cost power to the State Electricity Boards. The Committee is in the final stages of it's deliberations.

(c) The recommendations of consultant in this regard are awaited, where after specific steps would be taken to bring about the requisite changes.

[Translation]

India Habitat Centre

5234. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total membership allotted by the 'India Habitat Centre' upto August, 1996;

(b) the details of criteria laid down for alloting membership;

(c) the reasons for acceptance of the applications of the persons who applied for membership alongwith the criteria on which the applications were accepted and the objectives of the institution in this regard;

(d) the time by which the said centre would be completed for utilisation by the members;

(e) whether in future the membership is proposed to be increased; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?